

SITUATION REPORT NO. 72
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: December 5, 1997 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay was at 1442.56 feet MSL on December 4.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In a Thanksgiving letter to North Dakotans, Governor Schafer reported that flood victims received support from 50,000 relief agency volunteers and warehouses full of donated food, clothing and supplies from every state. Relief agencies provided 2 million meals to flood victims. The Governor declared Thanksgiving as a Day of Prayer in North Dakota for all the victims of the 1997 disaster.

Grand Forks and East Grand Forks community leaders recently formed the Greater Grand Forks Community Foundation, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in both cities. The members hope to raise \$5 million to support cultural, education and human service programs.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The North Dakota Tax Commissioner and the Internal Revenue Services have granted a second extension to individuals and some businesses in Grand Forks County for filing 1996 income tax returns. The deadline has been extended to January 13, 1998. The first extensions occurred after the spring flood when the deadline was extended from April 15 to August 15.

The N.D. Department of Agriculture has reported that its Project Safe Send collected nearly 91,000 pounds of flood-damaged chemicals, paints, oils and other hazardous waste materials from Red River Valley residents. The collection was financed through a \$312,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant. Remaining grant funds will be set aside for next year if flooding occurs. Collection sites were established in Wahpeton, Casselton, Grand Forks and Cavalier.

To date, 24,483 awards have been approved for nearly \$53.4 million in Disaster Housing assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Individual and Family Grant Program (IFGP), administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has approved more than \$13.8 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFGP grant is \$1,326. The staff has closed 23,091 cases. Cases remaining open total 144. There have been 12 appeals, 11 have been denied and one has been granted.

The North Dakota Emergency Management staff has recently completed a Risk Assessment in portions of the state affected most by last year's flood disaster. Two teams made up of planners, floodplain experts and engineers worked with officials of 18 counties, mainly in the eastern portion of the state, to look at what effects flooding had or could have on their jurisdictions. The purpose of the assessment was to identify long-term and immediate actions which could be implemented to reduce future flood losses and hardships.

As of December 3, the Public Assistance staff has received 3,996 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) and has obligated funds for 3,417 DSRs. Survey work has been completed for 377 applicants for the 1997 flood. Nearly \$151.8 million in infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal has been determined to be eligible in the declared counties. Questions regarding duplication of benefits and insurance coverage are still being debated and may impact Public Assistance obligations through the Stafford Act.

Other major issues being studied among local, state, and federal officials include: demolition costs for destroyed properties; costs of electrical inspections in Grand Forks; and status of emergency levees.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved to date more than \$178.1 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 11,646 loan applications, 6,888 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 55 percent were to home owners and renters for real estate and personal property losses, and 45 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director